

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens device comprising an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end, and a macro shooting button,

wherein the aperture is smaller at the predetermined zooming step than at other zooming steps, and

wherein the predetermined zooming step is used only when a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject is chosen by activating the macro shooting button.

2. (Original) The zoom lens device as defined in claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of zooming steps and an aperture is changed according to a zooming step.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) The zoom lens device as defined in claim 1, wherein the predetermined zooming step is closer to the telephoto end than the wide-angle end.

5. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens device, comprising:

- a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;
- a choosing device that chooses a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;
- a driving device that moves the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing device chooses the macro shooting mode; and
- an aperture restricting device that changes an aperture according to the zooming steps so that when the aperture is at the predetermined zooming step that is between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end, the aperture is smaller than when the aperture is at the other zooming steps.

6. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device, comprising:

- a zoom lens;
- sectors operative to form an aperture; and
- an aperture switching device that switches a size of the aperture of the sectors when the zoom lens is moved beyond one of a telephoto end and a wide-angle end,

wherein the aperture switching device is used only when a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject is chosen.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens device comprising:

a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;

means for choosing a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;

means for moving the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing means chooses the macro shooting mode;

and

means for changing an aperture according to the zooming steps so that when the aperture is at the predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end, the aperture is smaller than when the aperture is at the other zooming steps.